

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 20394

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, IT
SUBJECT: ANDREOTTI'S VIEWS ON IMPORTANCE OF EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

1. CHARGE HAD LUNCH WITH ANDREOTTI'S DIPLOMATIC ADVISER, UMBERTO LA ROCCA. IN REVIEWING THE SUCCESSFUL ANDREOTTI VISIT TO WASHINGTON, LA ROCCA SAID THAT ANDREOTTI REGRETTED HE HAD NOT HAD MORE TIME TO DEVELOP FOR THE SECRETARY HIS VIEWS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS TO THE EVOLUTION OF THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY. LA ROCCA, SPEAKING FOR ANDREOTTI, EXPLAINED THAT THE CREATION OF A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT WILL CONSTITUTE "THE MOMENT OF TRUTH" FOR THE PCI. AN ELECTED PARLIAMENT WILL OBVIOUSLY HAVE ADDITIONAL POWERS AND THE PCI WILL BE FORCED TO TAKE PUBLIC STANDS ON SIGNIFICANT ISSUES. AS IT IS NOW, LA ROCCA NOTED, THE COMMUNISTS AT STRASBOURG ABSTAINED ON MOST MATTERS RATHER THAN REVEAL DIFFERENCES AS BETWEEN THE ITALIANS, FRENCH, AND DANES. IN ANDREOTTI'S VIEW, IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR THE PCI TO OPT OUT IN THIS FASHION IN AN ELECTED PARLIAMENT.

2. AN ELECTED EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT WILL PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO TEST WHETHER EURO-COMMUNISM REALLY EXISTS OR WHETHER THERE IS ONLY A KIND OF ITALIAN NATIONAL COMMUNISM WHICH MAY OR MAY NOT BE DIFFERENT FROM ALL CP'S. BASIC TO ANDREOTTI'S VIEW IS THE CONVICTION THAT SOME ITALIAN COMMUNISTS ARE SINCERE IN THEIR INTENTION TO BECOME TRULY WESTERN AND DEMOCRATIC.

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3. LA ROCCA EMPHASIZED THAT ANDREOTTI DID NOT WISH TO OVER-

DRAMATIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS ON THE ITALIAN COMMUNISTS BUT AT THE SAME TIME THE PROCESS OF ELECTION AND PARTICIPATION IN A TRULY LEGISLATIVE BODY WOULD PROVE TO BE VERY SIGNIFICANT IN TESTING WHETHER OR NOT THE ITALIAN COMMUNISTS ARE EVOLVING INTO A POLITICAL PARTY WHICH IS TRULY DEMOCRATIC AND FREE OF MOSCOW INFLUENCE. BEAUDRY

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